



H.R. 1830 – Andean Trade Preference Reauthorization bill

Floor Situation

H.R. 1830, as amended, is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY) on March 29, 2007.

H.R. 1830 is expected to be considered on the floor on June 27, 2007.

Note: In order to expedite signing this bill into law, Ways and Means Chairman Rangel (D-NY) and Ranking Member McCrery (R-LA) reached a bipartisan agreement with Senators Baucus (D-MT) and Grassley (R-IA). The trade preferences are currently set to expire on June 30, 2007. [Ranking Member McCrery Press Release, 6/26/2007](#)

Summary

H.R. 1830 would extend trade preferences to Andean nations for eight months. The preferences are currently set to expire on June 30, 2007.

Background

The Andean trade preferences, which were first signed into law in 1991, give special duty treatment to certain goods imported from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. The trade preferences are an important component of U.S. efforts to encourage economic development in the region and to fight the illicit drug trade. Congress passed a short-term, 6-month, extension late last year.

In 2006, the U.S. imported \$22.5 billion from the four countries while exporting \$12.6 billion. There are approximately 5,600 products, including clothing, tuna, and petroleum, that receive preferential duty access to U.S. markets.

In May 2007, Congress and the Administration reached a deal on how future trade agreements would be negotiated. Discussions are still underway with Democrats on when to bring U.S. free trade agreements with Peru and Colombia to the floor. These agreements would knock down trade barriers in these two key markets far beyond the preferences.

Concerns have been raised regarding extension of preferences to Bolivia and Ecuador because of anti-free market actions and anti-American rhetoric from their countries' leaders.

Cost

There is currently no CBO score for H.R. 1830.

Staff Contact

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